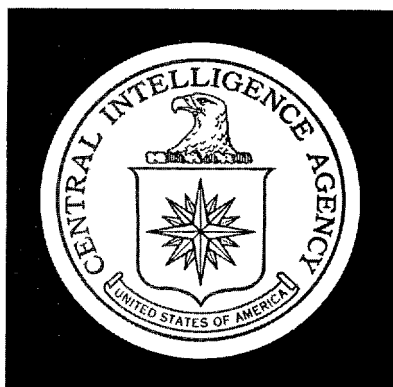


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Communist China - USSR: The Chinese have abruptly halted the campaign of violence against Soviet diplomats in China.

The siege of the Soviet Embassy was lifted on 12 February, when Chinese Foreign Ministry officials told the Russians that they could safely leave the compound if they avoided "provocative" acts. The Soviet diplomats had been confined for almost a week on the grounds that their safety could not be guaranteed outside. Mobs that had been demonstrating outside the embassy since the Chinese provoked a student incident in Moscow on 25 January have dispersed.

On 13 February the Chinese ended harassment of Soviet train crews operating the Peking-Moscow express. TASS reports that Chinese officials at the border station for the first time accepted a written protest from the conductor concerning ill-treatment of the train crew and then had Chinese workmen remove anti-Soviet slogans which had been pasted on the train in Peking and during stops along the route.

The reasons for the shift in Chinese tactics remain unclear. The change came after a mass anti-Soviet demonstration on 11 February, at which Chen Yi and Chou En-lai were the principal speakers. Chou's remarks included a demand that both sides should make documents concerning the dispute "public." The Chinese are apparently reverting, at least temporarily, to the earlier pattern of polemical exchanges and "correct" unpleasanties.

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USSR-Egypt: The USSR is delivering a Shershen-class motor torpedo boat to Egypt, the first non-Communist country to get one. Egypt is also expected to get the first SAM-equipped Kotlin-class destroyers to be delivered outside the bloc and the coastal defense version of the Kennel missile.

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Egypt-US: Cairo on 13 February canceled permission for US aircraft carrying military supplies to Jordan to overfly Egyptian territory. The Egyptians claim that the cancellation is retaliation for Jordanian support of Saudi Arabia in its confrontation with Egypt. However, it probably also stems from the lack of a US response to Egyptian requests for wheat, the growing conviction that the US is firmly aligned with Arab "reactionaries," and a desire to emphasize Egypt's strategic location in the Middle East.

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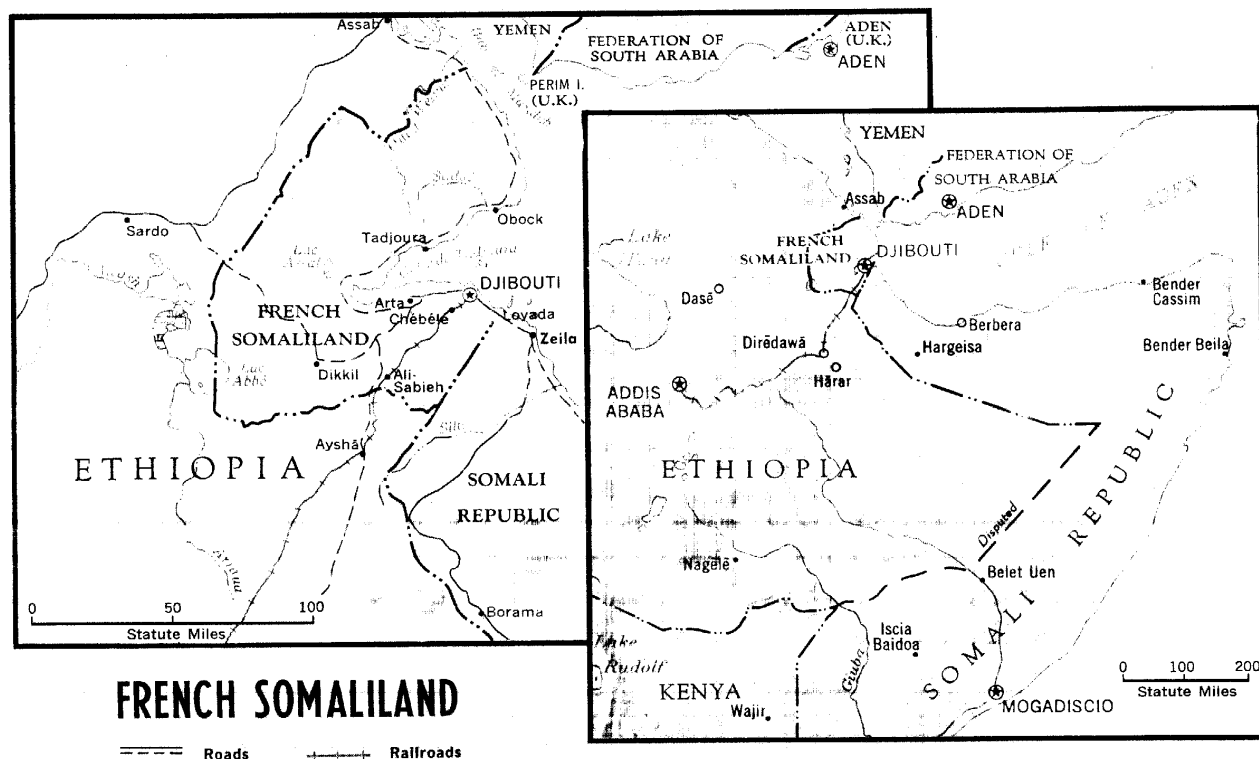
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Somali Republic: Somali military forces are being strengthened along the French Somaliland border apparently to counter any Ethiopian military moves against French Somaliland if it opts for independence in the March referendum. A task force being formed in northern Somalia is to total five battalions, including infantry, armor, artillery, and antiaircraft units, supported by four MIG-17 fighters and two AN-24 transports. These Somali moves are almost certain to generate Ethiopian countermoves near the disputed territory.  
(Map)

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Chile: A decision has been made to send Foreign Minister Valdes to the inter-American meetings in Buenos Aires this week. In addition, according to Valdes, President Frei will attend the proposed summit meeting in April whether or not the Senate grants permission. Frei hopes to reschedule his US trip sometime after the proposed summit. In the meantime, he intends to campaign actively for Christian Democratic Party candidates in the municipal elections on 2 April.

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